UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/488,738	01/20/2000	Todd Anthony Mitchell	RO999-164	4844

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EXAMINER
NGUYEN, TAM V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2172	

2172

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/488,738	MITCHELL ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Tam V Nguyen	2172	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

    A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _20 January 2000_ .

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) _1-16_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) _1-16_ is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .	6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1.   This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for

examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is

allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3.   Claims 1-16 are reject under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Knudson

et al (US 5765140).

        Re claim 1, a method for managing a project requiring a plurality of tasks

performed on at least one computer system by a plurality of users, comprising the steps

of: interactively defining a plurality of groups of users associated with the project, (Col.

2, lines 41-55); interactively defining, for each of said plurality of groups of users, (Col.

2, lines 41-55 and see abstract), a respective project tracking interface, (Col. 2, lines 56-

60) each project tracking interface having a respective set of task selections,(Col. 2,

lines 56-60), wherein a first set of task selections of a first project tracking interface for a

first group of users is different from a second set of task selections of a second project

tracking interface for a second group of users, (Col. 6, lines 30-36);

associating a first user with said first group of users, (Col. 2, lines 41-45 and see

abstract);

presenting said first project tracking interface having said first set of task

selections to said first user; associating a second user with said second group of users,

(Col. 4, lines 47-67); and

presenting said second project tracking interface having said second set of task

selections to said second user, (Col. 5, lines 53-58).

Re claims 2 and 9, the method of claim 1, wherein said step of interactively

defining, for each of said plurality of groups of users, a respective project tracking

interface, comprises interactively defining, for each task selection, a respective task

description, whereby a task selection for a first project tracking interface may have a

first task description, and the same task selection for a second project tracking interface

may have a second task description different from said first task description, (Col. 2,

lines 41-63).

Re claims 3 and 10, the method of claim 1, wherein each task selection

displayed in a project tracking interface includes a task status indicator, (Col. 2, lines

56-63).

Re claims 4 and 11, the method of claim 3, wherein said task status indicator is

assumes one of a plurality of colors, each color corresponding to a respective status,

(Col. 2, lines 56-63).

Re claims 5 and 12, the method of claim 1, wherein said step of interactively

defining, for each of said plurality of groups of users, a respective project tracking

interface, comprises generating, for each of said plurality of groups of users, a

respective interface definition file, said interface definition files containing entries

corresponding to tasks, wherein a first interface definition file for defining said first

project tracking interface contains a respective entry for each task selection in said first

set of task selections, and a second interface definition file for defining said second

project tracking interface contains a ;respective entry for each task selection in said

second set of task selections, (Col. 2, lines 42-55 and Col. 2, lines 41-63).

Re claims 6 and 13, the method of claim 5, wherein each said entry in an

interface definition file includes a respective task description field, whereby a task

selection for said first project tracking interface may have a first task description, and

the same task selection for said second project tracking interface may have a second

task description different from said first task description, (Col. 2, lines 41-63).

Re claims 7 and 14, the method of claim 5, wherein each said entry in an

interface definition file includes a respective scope field specifying the scope of the task

selection, whereby a task selection for said first project tracking interface may have a

first scope, and the same task selection for said second project tracking interface may

have a second scope different from said first scope, (Col. 2, lines 41-63).

Re claim 8, a computer program product for managing a project requiring a

plurality of tasks performed on at least one computer system by a plurality of users, said

computer program product comprising: a plurality of processor executable instructions

recorded on signal-bearing media, wherein said instructions, when executed by at least

one processor, cause at least one computer to perform the steps of: (Col. 2, lines 64-

Col. 3, lines 11); receiving interactive input defining a plurality of groups of users

associated with the project, (Col. 2, lines 41-55); receiving interactive input defining, for

each of said plurality of groups of users, a respective project tracking interface, each

project tracking interface having a respective set of task selections, wherein a first set of

task selections of a first project tracking interface for a first group of users is different

from a second set of task selections of a second project tracking interface for a second

group of users, (col. 2, lines 41-63); associating a first user with said first group of users,

(Col. 2, lines 41-45); presenting said first project tracking interface having said first set

of task selections to said first user, (Col. 5, lines 53-58);associating a second user with

said second group of users, (col. 2, lines 41-45); and presenting said second project

tracking interface having said second set of task selections to said second user, (Col. 5,

lines 53-58).

Re claim 15: a computer program: see claim analyzed of claim 1.

Re claim 16, the computer program product for managing a project of claim 15,

further comprising: an interactive interface definition function, said interactive interface

definition function interactively receiving and storing a plurality of said project tracking

interface definitions, each project tracking interface definition being associated with a

respective group of user of said plurality of user, (Col. 2, lines 41-63).

Conclusion

4.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

Miller (US 6101481) shows task management system.

Diamant et al. (US 5530861) shows process enaction and tool integration via a

task oriented paradigm.

Addesso et al. (US 5019961) shows computer apparatus and method for logical

modeling.

Ledet et al. (US 6237915B1) shows board game for teaching project

management skills.

McFarland (US 6154753) shows document management system and method for

business quality modeling.

Contact Fax Information

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or Faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communication intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 308-5399, (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")
Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA. Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

Contact Information

5.   **Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3735. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.**

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Yen Vu, can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-5399.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-

4700.

TV: tv

02/20/2002

KIM VU
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